1992-93 के दौरान गुजरात राज्य विधि सहायता और सलाह बोर्ड, जिला और सेशन न्यायाधीश, देहगाम, और सौराष्ट्र विश्वविद्यालय, अनवरत शिक्षा और विस्तारण कार्य विभाग, दक्षिण गुजरात विश्वविद्यालय और गुजरात के एक सामाजिक कार्रवाई समूह को 1,75,136 रु० का सहायता अनुदान मंजूर किया गया था, जिसमें से 1,15,136 रु० का हिसाब प्राप्त हुआ है ।

**Issue of identity cards to voters**

1459. PROF. SAURIN BHAACHARYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to the issue of identity cards to all eligible vote rsin the country.

(b) if so, and if such identity should be multipurpose ones, who elsewhould have to be covered ;

(c) how the expenses in this regard would be met ; and

(d) whether Government consider the announcement of the Chief Election Commissioner not to hold elections anywhere without identity cards after his deadline would be legal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The Central Government is examining various aspects of the issue of identity cards including the one relating to funding of the scheme.

(d) It is for courts to decide the legality or otherwise of the stand of the Chief Election Commissioner and it will not be appropriate for Government to express an opinion in the matter.

**Opposition to the identity cards for muslim women**

1460. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUWDHURY :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRI SARDA MOHANTY :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 569 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994 and state ;

(a) whether the Identity Card is going to be used for multiple prurpose if so, the details thereof ;

(b) what are the consequences for the failure to implement the introduction of Identity Card ;

(c) what is the estimated expense per card and the total expense ;

(d) whether it is a fact that religious fundamentalists are opposed to identity card for mulsim women ; and

(e) whether Government would concede such anti-democratic fundamentalist demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The identity card stipulated in the directions of the Election Commission of India is meant for purpose of election only. No decision has, however yet been taken on whether these cards can be made use of for any other purpose also.

(b) According to directions of Election Commission of India, no election would be held after 1-1-1995 unless all electors have been issued photo identity cards. The Government however, hopes such a situation would not arise.

(c) The estimated expenditure per card is approximately Rs. 15 and total expenditure on issue of these cards is estimated to be around Rs. 1650 crores.

(d) and (e) The Government has seen certain press reports relating to opposition in some quarters to taking of photographs of muslim women. The directions of the Election Commission, however, stipulate that in any exceptional circumstances, if it is considered necessary to exempt a class of people from insistence on photography, it can be done after obtaining the approval of the Commission. The question, therefore, of Government conceding or not conceding to the demand in this regard does not arise.